

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6851

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0579

EXDIS

SECTO 412

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK COVER ON INDOCHINA

1. BRUCE VAN VOORST HAS ASKED ME TO PASS TO SECRETARY
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR WHICH HE HOPES TO GET WRITTEN
OR ORAL ON-THE-RECORD ANSWERS: BEGIN QUOTE.

(A) ISN'T IS SORT OF BIZARRE THAT THE
DENOUEMENT COMES WHEN HE IS 4,000 MILES FROM WASHINGTON?
SHOULDN'T HE BE BACK THERE, DOING WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE
FOR AN ISSUE IN WHICH HE HAD SUCH A PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT?

(B) ISN'T THERE ANYTHING HE CAN REALLY DO? WITH
CONGRESS? WITH THE BIG POWERS CONCERNED?

(C) WAS THE U.S. CONCULTED IN THE DECISION TO
WITHDRAW FROM THE HIGHLANDS -- WHY WAS THE DECISION MADE,
HOW SERIOUS WAS THE THREAT?

(D) IS THIS IN FACT THE BEGINNING OF THE END
FOR VIETNAM?

(E) REALIZE THIS IS TOUCHY, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE
IN WASHINGTON SUGGEST HE IS STAYING AWAY, WASHING HIS
HANDS OF THE MESS, IN ORDER TO DUMP THE BLAME ON CONGRESS,
AND WANTS TO SEVER HIS PERSONAL CONNECTION. IT IS A
QUESTION WHICH AHS TO BE MET HEAD-ON.

(F) FINALLY, WE NEED SOMETHING ON THE RECORD
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ABOUT THE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS, HIS FEELING THAT

FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING IS STYMIED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF
AWARENESS OF THE IMPLICATIONS, AND A PARALYSIS IN CONGRESS.
END QUOTE.

2. BEFORE PASSING REQUEST TO SECRETARY (HOPEFULLY)
TONIGHT IN ASWAN BECAUSE OF NEWSWEEK DEADLINE), WOULD
APPRECIATE POINTS YOU COVERED WITH PHIL COOK AND ANY
RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR SECRETARY.
KISSINGER

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